



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR UNDERSEA SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
(NIUST)**



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FY2004

The National Institute for Undersea Science & Technology (NIUST) at the University of Mississippi, a partner with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Undersea Research Program (NOAA/NURP), is currently soliciting proposals for research that complements its mission of enhancing undersea research by developing new technologies. NIUST is composed of three core divisions: 1) the Ocean Biotechnology Center & Repository [OBCR], 2) the Seabed Technology Research Center [STRC], and 3) the Undersea Vehicles Technology Center [UVTC] (please see our website for more information on these programs and their current research activities: <http://www.rx.olemiss.edu/niust>). This announcement provides two funding opportunities and appropriate projects should address specific gaps in existing technologies:

- 1. NIUST funding for 1 to 2 year projects focusing on ocean biotechnology research.*
- 2. NIUST funding for 1 to 2 year projects focusing on development of new sensors and/or vehicles for undersea research.*

Priorities for both competitions include those studies that offer the greatest potential to advance ocean sciences through novel and innovative approaches or applications of new technologies, and particularly research conducted in any US territorial waters or polar regions. NIUST strongly encourages proposals that team with the three core divisions and their activities, or that address specific NURP center priorities. All proposals will be evaluated both on technical merit and scientific applicability.

These competitions are contingent upon NIUST receiving adequate funds from NOAA/NURP.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Eligible applicants are U.S. institutions of higher education, not-for-profit institutions, and state, local and Indian tribal governments. Proposals may include federal researchers as collaborators, but federal organizations may not charge salary, travel or overhead. Proposal budgets for ocean biotechnology research will range from \$10-50K, for direct scientific support, and to \$100K for sensor/vehicle development research. AN APPLICANT MATCH OF 50% IS REQUIRED FOR EACH PROPOSAL. NIUST limits indirect costs to 10% of the direct costs, but unrecovered indirects may be calculated as part of the match requirement. Funding for the second year of any proposal will be contingent upon progress and funding availability.

Proposals will not exceed 15 pages of text to include: Background (including preliminary data if appropriate), Methods & Approach, Timeline, Significance, and Results from

Prior NURP Support. All figures and tables will count towards the 15 page limit, but a project abstract, budget justification, and references will not. In addition, each proposal will include various forms (e.g., Cover Sheet; Applicant Agreement, Table of Contents, Biographical Sketch, Budget Sheets, Current & Pending Support, and Facilities); these are available online. The original signature proposal must be mailed directly to NIUST, and an e-mail copy of the entire proposal must be forwarded via web-link to the appropriate review panel. **DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS IS November 1st 2003.**

Proposal will be sent out for peer-review in early November 2003. Applicants will have a rebuttal opportunity from mid- to late-December 2004. The NIUST technical review panel will then rank the proposals based on scientific merit and match with programmatic mission/goals of NIUST and NOAA/NURP. Investigators will be notified of the status of their proposals by January 2004.